

Coroner's Fatality Management

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
Thursday, July 9, 2009
10:00-11:30 a.m. Central Time

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

Faculty

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Purpose of Today's Broadcast

- Continue state pandemic fatality management (FM) planning
 - State Pandemic Influenza (PI) Operations Plan (Op Plan)
 - Assistant Secretary of Planning and Response (ASPR) Cooperative Agreement

Purpose of Today's Broadcast

- Assist with local pandemic FM planning
 - Move the FM Template into a plan

Pandemic Deaths

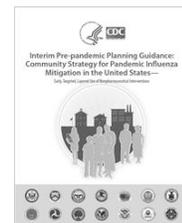
- 11 pandemics in last 300 years
- 4 pandemics in last 100 years

Year	US Deaths	Global Deaths
1918	675,000	50,000,000
1957	70,000	1,500,000
1968	34,000	700,000
2009	127	331

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/general/whatis.html>

Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

- Voluntary isolation
- Voluntary quarantine
- Dismissal of students
- Reduce out-of-school contact



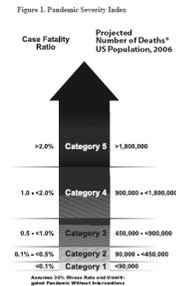
Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs)

- Decrease number of social contacts
- Increase distance between people
Modify, postpone or cancel public gatherings
- Modify work place schedules and practices

<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/commitigation.html>

Pandemic Severity Index (PSI)

- Gauge the potential severity and impact of a pandemic and the appropriate actions communities can take to limit the spread of the disease



<http://pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/commitigation.html>

Your Assistance Is Required

- All NPI decisions are based on the PSI category
- PSI is based on the case-fatality ratio
- We need accurate timely death information, especially early in pandemic
- Delay in accurate information could cause additional loss of life

PI Op Plan Sub-Objectives B.8

- Secure process tracking to the State Department of Health
- Plan for behavioral health/grief community education that includes an expectation of death at home
- Plan for behavioral health/grief public messages to address stress management

FM Planning Activities

- 2006 Fatality Management (FM) Workgroup created
- 2007 ASPR FM grant funds for supply caches
- 2007 FM Statewide Survey
- 2008 11 FM Conference Series
- 2008 Alabama County Commission Association (ACCA) FM Templates contract

FM Planning Activities

- 2008 ASPR grant funds for supply caches
- 2008 CoronerME and laptops purchased
- 2009 ASPR PI grant funds for supply caches
- 2009 FM Toolkit created

ACCA\ADPH FM Template Issues

- County FM Team
- County Capacity
- Indefinite Temporary Storage
- Alternate Transportation
- Report Daily Deaths
- Community Education on County Plan
- Share plan with all team members

FM Template Criteria

- EMA Director or Designee Signature
- County Commissioner Chairperson Signature
- ACCA and ADPH assume appropriate steps will be taken to incorporate the templates into the county EMA EOP
- Share plan with team members

County FM Team

- County Commissioner
- EMA
- ADPH PHA EP Team
- Law Enforcement
- Dispatch/911/PSAP
- Fire Coroner/Medical Examiner
- Funeral Home
- Faith-based
- EMS
- Local Hospital

County Capacity

- Must know capacity before an event to plan
- Staff and supplies
- Determine county trigger

Identify Local Options

- Temporary Storage
 - Cold
 - Non-cold
 - Local authorities
- Alternate Transportation
 - Not EMS
 - Not law enforcement
 - Public works

Report Daily Deaths

- Each county must determine a report process
- In AL, ACA has agreed to use CoronerME

ADPH, ACA, and CoronerME

- ADPH granted funds to ACA for software and computers
- In return, ADPH is asking coroners to enter basic information
- ADPH has been granted access to basic info for emergency events

ADPH, ACA, and CoronerME

- General aggregate data, names only for deduplicating
- ADPH asked for data dump to excel and autofill features in cause and mechanism of death

Community Education on County Plan

- New PSAP/E911 procedures
- How to handle a decedent at home
- Collection Point
- Notification from street a decedent needs pick-up
- Local grief and stress resources

FM Toolkit

- Intended for Coroners and all county FM planning team members to accelerate local planning
- Dead Body Manual
- Binder contains relevant resources
- Reproducible forms
- Toe tags
- Zip ties
- www.adph.org/cep

Table of Contents

- Joint letter from State Health Officer and Alabama Coroner Association President
- ADPH Area Emergency Preparedness Teams – Map
- County and Municipal Fatality Management Planning Template
- Estimated Pandemic Daily Deaths by County

Table of Contents

- Hospital Mass Fatality Plan Checklist
- Coping with Stress After a Traumatic Event
- Operations, Identification and Command and Control of Mass Fatalities resulting from a Pandemic Influenza Event in U.S.

Table of Contents

- **Cultural and Religious Considerations During a Mass Fatality: A Coroner's Guide from a Public Perception**
- **The Medical Examiner/Coroner's Guide For Contaminated Deceased Body Management**

Table of Contents

- **The Provision of Family Assistance and Behavioral Health Services in the Management of Mass Fatalities Resulting from a Pandemic Influenza in U.S.**
- **Mass Fatality Incident Management: Guidance for Hospitals and Other Healthcare Entities**

Table of Contents

- **OSHA Fact Sheet - Health and Safety Recommendations for Workers Who Handle Human Remains**
- **Frequently Asked Questions on the Management of Cadavers**
- **Forms**

Table of Contents

- **Fatality Management Toolkit Reference Page**
- **Contact Information - EMA Directors and Coroners**

Dr. Higginbotham Video

- **Disclaimer**
– He mentions DMORT, but he is not referring to federal DMORT asset

2008 ASPR Survey

- **ADPH conducts an annual hospital survey**
- **Has your hospital completed DRAFT plans for mass fatality management?**
Yes - 66 No - 16
- **Does your hospital have FINALIZED WRITTEN plans?**
Yes - 59 No - 26

2010 ASPR Guidance

- Facility level planning integrated into local/jurisdictional and state plans, include
 - Proper identification
 - Handling and storage of remains

Local Planning

- Has your hospital been involved with county Emergency Management Agency's (EMA) Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Emergency Preparedness (EP) Teams' PI Planning Committee, or County FM Team?

Local Planning

- If not, it is time
- 52 out of the 67 counties submitted a FM Template between 11/1/08-12/15/08

Hospital Planning Issues

- Do not accept bodies from outside the hospitals
- Do not plan for FM surge, plan with you county FM team
- Who in your county will pick up decedents?
- Does your hospital have staff to transport decedents to a local collection point?

Hospital Planning Issues

- Does your plan include procedures to report death to the local authorities?